

סילבוס - תוכנית הוראה לקורס
ספרות חז"ל וספרות הנצרות
פרופ' אהרן עמית | המחלקה לתלמוד ותורה שבעל-פה
Rabbinic Literature and Early Christianity | 09-961-01

הרצאה	סוג הקורס:
2 (1 ש"ש)	היקף נ"ז:
תשפ"ה	שנת לימודים:
ב'	סמסטר:
ראשון, 14:00	יום ושעה
ימי שני 11:30 – 13:30	שעת קבלה:
Aaron.amit@biu.ac.il	מייל מרצה:
	קישור לאתר למדה:



Course Description and Goals

In this course we will study the relationship between Rabbinic Literature and early Christian works (known as the New Testament). After an introduction the course will concentrate on the comparison of specific Tannaitic legal sources found in rabbinic literature and a range of New Testament sources. This will be concentrated primarily on Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians and legal content in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). Traditions in the New Testament sources will be compared with rabbinic literature with the goal of understanding the relationship between the two literary corpora. We will attempt to follow the development of specific traditions and understand how each of the edited textual traditions utilized and redacted them. An attempt will be made to understand which sources represent the earliest version of the various legal traditions.

Overall Course Goals:

Students will gain an understanding of the primary sources of Christianity in the New Testament. This will include Paul's authentic letters and the Gospels. In addition, students will gain an understanding of the development of a range of legal topics that are found in both literary traditions and gain methodological ability to examine topics on their own. Students will also gain an understanding of the primary methodological issues that scholars face in comparing Rabbinic literature to early Christian sources. The Rabbinic sources were redacted after the New Testament sources, yet many times we can demonstrate that they represent early oral traditions that existed in the first century CE.



Active Study – Detailed Plan:

The course will concentrate primarily on Tannaitic sources found in a range of rabbinic sources; these will include Mishnah, Tosefta, Midrashei Halakhah, Talmud Bavli and Talmud Yerushalmi. Comparison will be undertaken between these sources and New Testament sources, including Paul's authentic letters and the Gospels. In addition we will read a range of scholarship on both rabbinic literature and early Christian literature keeping in mind that in the period we are studying "Christianity" was not yet a defined religion. Time permitting we will also examine some examples of common midrashic material in the two literary traditions.

Class Sessions:

The following is a projected order of topics that we will cover in our study. Before each class the lecturer will give instructions to participants how to prepare for each class. Sources and reading material will be posted on the course internet site. Topics could change based on class level and other factors:

Class Number	Topic	Reading/Sources
1	Introduction to Rabbinic Literature and Overview of the New Testament	Paula Fredriksen, "Paul and Judaism", 633-637; Stern, Sacha, "Time, Calendars, and Festivals", 669-672.
2-3	The Prohibition of Creating Factions	I Corinthians 1:10-13, Sifrei Deuteronomy 96, Bavli Yevamot 13b, Yerushalmi Pesahim 4:1 (30d)
4-5	Idol Meat and Kashrut in Corinth	I Corinthians 8 and I Corinthians 10:23-33, Tosefta Nedarim 4:6, Bavli Nedarim 81b, Bavli Pesahim 51a
6	Women's Roles in the Congregation – Head Covering and a Woman's Voice	I Corinthians 11:2-16 and I Corinthians 14:26-40, Tosefta Megillah 3:11, Bavli Megillah 23a, Bavli Berakhot 24a.
7	The Role of the Apostle and Remuneration	I Corinthians 9:1-18, Mishnah Avot 1:18, Mishnah Avot 4:5.
8	The Meaning and Structure of the Service in Synagogue and Early Church	I Corinthians 14:1-33, Tosefta Berakhot 3:21, Tosefta Berakhot 3:5, Tosefta Megillah 3:20, Bavli Berakhot 8a.

9-10	Marriage and Divorce in Rabbinic Literature and the Synoptic Gospels	Matthew 5:31-32, 19:3-9, Mark 10:2-12, Luke 16:18, Mishnah Gittin 9:10.
11-12	Pikuah Nefesh in Rabbinic Literature and the Gospels	Mark 2:23-28, Luke 6:1-5, Matthew 12:1-8, John 7:22-23, Tosefta Shabbat 15:16-17, Mekhilta de Rabbi Ismael (Tractate Shabbata, Parasha 1), Bavli Yoma 85a-b.
13	Rabbinic Satire of New Testament Traditions	Bavli Shabbat 116a-b and Bavli Peshaim 57a-b and Matthew 5:14-19 and 25:31-46.
14	Summary and Preparation for Submission of Final Paper	

*Changes could be made in the final study schedule based on pace of study.



Final Grade:

The course grade will be based on class participation which will also include a number of preparation assignments and a final paper with questions on the readings and topics covered in the class. Instructions will be given about the format and content of the final paper which has to be submitted in English by the end of the exam period following second semester (4.9.2025).

משקל בציון הסופי	תיאור התוצר
10%	for participation and assignments
90%	for the final paper



Course Requirements:

The course will meet on zoom and students will be expected to have their cameras on for all class sessions. In addition, full class attendance is a requirement and attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Any student who misses more than 2 class

sessions during the semester without permission will not be allowed to submit the final paper and will not receive a grade in the course.



Prerequisites:

None.



Bibliography:

1. Amit, Aaron, "Schismata and 'Agudot: The Prohibition against Creating Factions in Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians and Rabbinic Literature", *AJS Review* 44 (2020), 228-245.
2. Amit, Aaron, "The Knowledgeable and the Weak in 1 Corinthians and Rabbinic Literature", *The Faces of Torah: Studies in the Texts and Contexts of Ancient Judaism in Honor of Steven Fraade*, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Göttingen, 2017, 35-48.
3. Amit, Aaron, "A Rabbinic Satire on the Last Judgment", *Journal of Biblical Literature* (2010), 679-697.
4. Collins, Nina, *Jesus the Sabbath and the Jewish Debate, Healing on the Sabbath in the 1st and 2nd Centuries CE*, London, 2014, 27-123.
5. Fitzmyer, Joseph, "The Matthean Divorce Texts and Some New Palestinian Evidence", *Theological Studies* 37 (1976), 197-226.
6. Fredriksen, Paula, "Paul and Judaism", in *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*, Second Edition, (eds. Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler), Oxford University Press USA, 2017, 633-637.
7. Kiel, Yishai and Prods Oktor Skjæo, "'The Sabbath Was Made for Humankind': A Rabbinic and Christian Principle in Its Iranian Context", *Bulletin of the Asia Institute, New Series*, Vol. 25 (2011), 1-18.
8. Kister, Menahem, "Divorce, Reproof, and Other Sayings in the Synoptic Gospels: Jesus Traditions in the Context of 'Qumranic' and Other Texts", *Text, Thought, and Practice in Qumran and Early Christianity, Proceedings of the Ninth*

International Symposium of the Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature (eds. Ruth Clements and Daniel Schwartz), Leiden, 2009, 195-212.

9. Stern, Sacha, "Time, Calendars, and Festivals", in *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*, , Second Edition, (eds. Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler), Oxford University Press USA, 2017, 669-672.